

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 15, 17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Izawa '785 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

Izawa discloses an echo attaching circuit and audio device using the same (Title).

In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention provides an apparatus comprising an input circuit, a noise cancellation circuit, an audio circuit and a mixing circuit. The input circuit may be configured to receive one or more input signals. The noise cancellation circuit may be configured to generate a first processed audio signal having reduced noise in response to the input signals. The noise cancellation circuit may be configured to perform (i) noise detection at a first programmable decibel level and (ii) noise suppression at a second programmable decibel level. The audio circuit may be configured to generate a second audio signal from a digital source. The mixing circuit may mix the processed audio signal and the second audio signals to generate an output signal. Claims 19 and 20 provide similar limitations.

Izawa is silent regarding such noise cancellation. The logarithmic amplifier circuit 10 mentioned in Izawa (i.e., the amplifier circuit 10 in FIG 2 of Izawa) does not anticipate the claimed noise cancellation circuit. In particular, the logarithmic amplifier circuit in Izawa restricts the amplitude of the output signal G to reduce external noise to be lower than the human voice (see Izawa, column 8, lines 60 - 66). However, the claimed noise cancellation circuit provides (i) noise detection at a first programmable decibel level and (ii) noise suppression at a second programmable decibel level. Izawa is silent regarding noise detection separate from noise suppression. Izawa is also silent regarding first and second programmable decibel levels. The only discussion of decibels in Izawa relates to dynamic range. The discussion of decibels found in Izawa is silent regarding programmable decibel levels. The discussion of decibels in Izawa is silent regarding (i) noise detection at a first programmable decibel level and (ii) noise suppression at a second programmable decibel level, as presently claimed. Therefore, Izawa does not disclose or suggest each and every element of the presently claimed invention. As such, Izawa does not anticipate the claimed invention and the rejection should be withdrawn.

As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of (i) claims 2, 10-12 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Izawa in view of Mino '329, (ii) claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Izawa in view of Mino '329, in further view of Shin (iii) claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Izawa in view of Nagata, (iv) claims 9, 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Izawa in view of Mino '329, in further view of Nagata and (v) claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Izawa in view of Mino '329, in further view of Brinkman are respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn. The dependent claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, which is now believed to be allowable.

As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

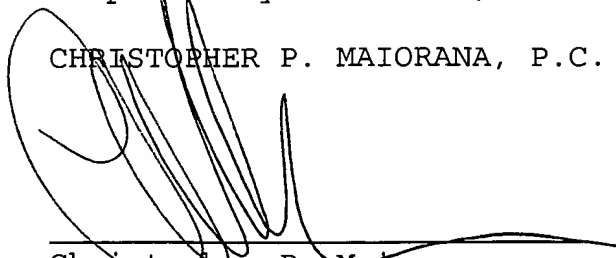
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit
Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER P. MAIORANA, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher P. Maiorana', is written over a horizontal line.

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